

Naval General Staff Directive No. 31 (gist)

Date: December 19, 1941.

From: Chief of Naval General Staff, Admiral NAGANO Osami.

To : Commander-in-~~ief~~ of Combined Fleet, Admiral YAMAMOTO.

1. In the conduct of the sea communication destruction warfare by the submarines, the limitation concerning the area where vessels may be sunk without warning and the restriction regarding the respect to be paid for the neutrality of shipping are hereby lifted.

2. In the conduct of the sea communication destruction warfare by the aircraft, the limitation and restriction similar to those of Paragraph 1 above are also hereby removed.

3. Despite the above-mentioned Paragraphs, attack shall not be launched against the ship which is clearly discernible as belonging to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The neutrality of shipping shall also be respected in those waters lying in the vicinity of Japan, along the coast of Russian territory, along the South American coast to the south of and including Peru, etc. in the case of the vessels of ordinary neutral countries (excepting the countries which are decided to be regarded as hostile powers in our policy of dealing with shipping).

CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, DOHI, Kazuo, who occupy the post of the Chief of the Historical Section of the Material Readjustment Branch, of 2nd Demobilization Office of Demobilization Bureau, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consistin of 1 page and entitled "Naval General Staff Directive No. 31 (gist)" is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official Document, which is an Answer made through the Nakemura-kikan to questions put forth to the former Japanese Navy by the Supreme Headquarters Allied Forces through Col. Manson (Phonetic) of the Supreme Headquarter Allied Forces on Nov. 1945.

certified at Tokyo,
on this 29 day of June, 1947

Dohi, Kazuo (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the witness.

at the same place,
on this same date

witness:

SOMIYA, Shinji (seal)

not used

大海指第三十一號（要旨）

昭和十六年十二月十九日

軍令部總長 永 野 修 身

山本聯合艦隊司令長官ニ指示

一、潛水艦ノ海上交通破壊作戦實施ニ對スル無警告襲沈地域ノ制限並ニ船舶ノ

中立性尊重ニ關スル制限ヲ解除ス

二、飛行機ノ海上交通破壊作戦實施ニ對スル制限ニ關シテモ亦前項ニ準ズ

三、前諸項ニ拘ラズ蘇聯邦船舶ナルコト明カル場合ハ之ヲ攻撃スベカラズ又

日本近海、露領沿岸及「ベル」以南ノ南米沿岸等ニ於テハ一般中立國、
船舶取扱上敵性國ト定メタル諸國ヲ除ク一船舶ニ對シテモ其ノ中立性ヲ尊
重スペシ

（終）

文書ノ出所並ニ成立ニ關スル證明書

自分、土肥一夫ハ復員廳第二復員局資料整理部史官班長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル
處、茲ニ添附セラレタル日本語ニ依ツテ書カレタル一頁ヨリ成ル大海指第
三十一號（要旨）ト題スル書類ハ昭和二十年十一月連合國最高司令部「マ
ンソン」大佐ヲ通ジ連合國最高司令部ヨリ元日本海軍宛ニ發セラレタ質問
ニ對シ中村機関ヲ經テ回答セル文書ノ抜萃ノ正確ニシテ眞實ナル寫ナルコ
トヲ證明スル

昭和二十二年六月二十七日 於 京 土 肥 一 夫

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同 日 會 同 所

立 會 人 宗 宮 信 次